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# PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMERICAN ETHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY

DECEMBER 14, 1899, TO DECEMBER 10, 1900

The American Ethnological Society was founded in 1842, and for many years thereafter held frequent meetings and did much to stimulate interest in the subjects which were its particular care, in New York and vicinity. With the death of many of its earliest members, and particularly of Albert Gallatin, to whom it mainly owed its origin, its meetings became fewer and its interest waned. The society's organization, however, has always been kept intact and occasional meetings have been held in recent years. With the rapid growth of anthropological work in New York during the last five years the need of some active society to further these interests has been increasingly felt. An informal organization known as the Anthropological Club was formed in 1897, composed of men actively engaged in anthropological pursuits, who met from time to time during the winter for the reading of papers and the discussion of topics of mutual interest. In 1808 the New York Academy of Sciences recognized the importance of the subject and the Section of Anthropology and Psychology was organized with monthly meetings. The necessity of some society more exclusively devoted to anthropological interests than the Academy being still felt, the members of the Ethnological Society and the Anthropological Club met, and after a full discussion the latter organization was merged in the former and with the beginning of 1900 the American Ethnological Society, with revised constitution and enlarged membership, resumed once more an active career with the prestige to which, by its age, it was entitled. With the active cooperation of the American Museum of Natural History, whose authorities have given the Society every assistance, the membership was increased largely, and monthly meetings are now held of such a nature as to promise well for the future success of the organization. Of these meetings three are held jointly with the Section of Anthropology and Psychology of the New York Academy of Sciences, and it is planned to give three public lectures each year under the auspices of the Society, which shall be of more general and popular interest than the technical papers read at the regular meetings.

The proceedings of the Society follow:

# December 14, 1899

A special meeting of the American Ethnological Society was held at the American Museum of Natural History, with Prof. A. S. Bickmore in the chair in the absence of the President of the Society, Dr Charles E. West.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Mr Morris K. Jesup, the President of the American Museum of Natural History, expressed through the chair his interest in the Society and offered the full coöperation of the Museum in advancing its interests.

After a report from the Librarian, Dr A. Woodward, relative to the deposit of the books, papers, and specimens of the Society in the library of the Museum, a resolution was passed making the Museum the permanent depository of such property of the Society. The Society then proceeded to consider the question of reorganization and, by invitation, Dr Franz Boas, representing the Anthropological Club, addressed the meeting on the need of regular and active meetings of an anthropological character and spoke of the work and aims of the Anthropological Club.

Following Dr Boas, remarks were made by several members, and upon motion the members of the Anthropological Club were formally elected members of the Society.

Meeting adjourned.

Anthony Woodward, Secretary pro tem.

# December 19, 1899

A special meeting of the American Ethnological Society was held at the American Museum of Natural History, with Prof. A. S. Bickmore in the chair. The chair read a letter from the President of the Society, Dr West, in which he requested to be relieved from his office as president. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The resignation of Dr West was accepted with regret and he was elected an honorary member of the Society.

A committee consisting of Prof. F. W. Putnam, Mr A. E. Douglas, and Gen. James Grant Wilson was appointed by the chair to present nominations for officers for the ensuing year. After a recess this committee reported the following nominations: President, Morris K. Jesup; First Vice-President, James Grant Wilson; Second Vice-President, Franz Boas; Corresponding Secretary, Marshall H. Saville; Recording Secretary, Livingston Farrand; Treasurer, Frederick E. Hyde, Jr; Librarian, Anthony Woodward; Members of Executive Committee, James Grant Wilson, Franz Boas, and Frederick E. Hyde, Jr.

The names as read were unanimously elected.

Professor Bickmore was appointed a committee to inform the President and Trustees of the American Museum of Natural History of the action of the Society with regard to the permanent deposit of the books and other property of the Society with the Museum.

The Society then adjourned subject to the call of the Executive Committee.

ANTHONY WOODWARD, Secretary pro tem.

# January 12, 1900

A meeting of the American Ethnological Society was held at the American Museum of Natural History, with Gen. James Grant Wilson in the chair. Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Professor Boas presented the draft of a revised constitution, recommended for adoption, as follows:

CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN ETHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY

#### ARTICLE I

Name.—This Society (established Nov. 19, 1842, by Albert Gallatin, John Russell Bartlett, George Folsom, Alexander I. Cotheal, Francis L. Hawks, Theodore Dwight, Jr, Edward Robinson, Charles Welford, William W. Turner, Thomas Ewbank, Henry R. Schoolcraft, Alexander W. Bradford, John L. Stephens, and Frederick Catherwood) shall be called the American Ethnological Society.

#### ARTICLE II

Objects.—The objects of this Society shall comprise inquiries into the origin, progress, and characteristics of the various races of man.

#### ARTICLE III

Members.—The Society shall consist of Members, Fellows, Corresponding Members, and Honorary Members. All classes of Members shall be elected by the Society upon recommendation of the Executive Committee. The affirmative votes of two-thirds of the Members and Fellows present shall be necessary to elect a candidate.

Fellows shall be chosen from among the Members resident in New York or vicinity, in virtue of scientific attainments or services. Corresponding Members shall consist of persons resident at a distance from New York, and chosen in virtue of scientific attainments or services. Honorary Members shall be chosen in virtue of distinguished services.

#### ARTICLE IV

Dues.—The annual dues of Members shall be Ten Dollars. Members contributing at one time One Hundred Dollars shall be known as Life Members, and shall thereafter be exempt from annual dues.

Any Member contributing at one time Five Hundred Dollars shall be known as a Patron.

The annual dues of Fellows shall be Five Dollars.

Corresponding Members shall be exempt from the payment of dues. Honorary Members shall be entitled to all the privileges of the Society without payment of dues.

#### ARTICLE V

Officers.—The officers of the Society shall consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Corresponding Secretary, a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Librarian, who shall be elected annually by ballot at the first meeting in every year. Members and Fellows shall be eligible to vote and hold office. Seven Members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

#### ARTICLE VI

Executive Committee.—The President and Recording Secretary, ex officio, and three other Members to be elected annually, shall constitute an Executive Committee for the transaction of business committed to them, and for general oversight and charge of the business affairs of the Society. This Committee shall report at each regular meeting.

#### ARTICLE VII

Meetings.—The meetings of the Society shall be held monthly, from the month of October to April, inclusive, at such time and place as shall be determined by the Executive Committee. Three of these meetings shall be public meetings, for which special preparation shall be made, and to which persons specially interested in Ethnology shall be invited. The Executive Committee shall be charged with the necessary arrangements for these public meetings.

#### ARTICLE VIII

Amendments.—This Constitution may be amended by a vote of three-fourths of the Members present at any regular meeting, provided notice of such proposed amendment or amendments be given at a previous meeting.

After remarks by various members of the Society the revised Constitution was adopted.

On recommendation of the Executive Committee the "American Anthropologist" was adopted as the official organ of the Society.

Meeting adjourned.

LIVINGSTON FARRAND, Recording Secretary.

#### January 31, 1900

A meeting of the American Ethnological Society was held at 226 West 58th street, with Gen. James Grant Wilson in the chair.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

On recommendation of the Executive Committee the following persons were elected members of the Society: Charles F. Cox, Seth Low, Henry F. Osborn.

A communication from the American Museum of Natural History referring to the deposit of the property of the Society in the Library of the Museum was read and ordered on file.

Dr A. Hrdlička presented a paper on Division of the Parietal and other Cranial Bones in Man and Mammals.

The paper dealt with the description, explanation of the mode of occurrences, and demonstration of divisions of various cranial bones. Five classes of divisions were demonstrated; these were: 1, The result of fractures. 2, Partial divisions resulting from mechanical obstruction in the course of the developing bone. 3, Normal partial divisions found in early life (embryo and new-born) and due to the mode of ossification of the bones. 4, Partial primarily normal divisions, persisting because of a delayed union of the original segments of the bones; and 5, Anomalous divisions due to a complete non-union of the original segments of the bones, as well as the divisions of class 4, may be associated with an abnormal multiplicity of the original segments of the bone.

Class 1—Divisions due to fracture occur not infrequently in both man and animals. When not recent, these divisions can be and actually have been mistaken for normal or abnormal sutures.

Class 2—These divisions occur in man occasionally in connection with the parietal foramen; more frequently in connection with the foramen ovale or spinosum on the sphenoid; and commonly in superior maxillæ in connection with the infraorbital foramen. They are very frequent in the parietal and temporal bones in the mammals, particularly in herbivora.

Class 3—These divisions are common in the older human embryos and the new-born; they also occur, but more rarely and not with the same relative frequency, in the same locations in the older embryos or new-born of various mammals. One of the most constant and prominent of these marginal divisions is the "parietal incisure" of Broca, situated near the posterior third of the median border of the parietal bone. Other more constant and prominent of these incisures are found in the sphenoid and mastoid angles of the parietal bone, above the mastoid angles of the same, in the anterior part of the squama, etc.

Class 4—Found frequently in the human new-born in the middle of the posterior border of the parietal and later in life in the malar, temporal, and occipital bones. Also in apes and monkeys, particularly in or near the middle of the anterior border of the parietal. Rare in lower mammals.

Class 5—The typical instances of divisions of this class can be observed in man in the separation of the superior portion of the occipital and in the complete horizontal division found occasionally in the The divisions of the frontal bone must also be attached to Divisions of the malar bone or temporal squama are this category. other examples. Complete divisions of the parietal - horizontal, oblique, and vertical—occur in apes and particularly in macaques. Divisions of this class are very rare in the lower mammals. New instances of divisions of this class are reported by the author in a chimpanzee (bilateral division of the parietal); macaques (various divisions and multiplicity of segments of the parietal); a separation of the mastoid angles, bilateral, in a Peruvian human skull; division of both malars in an orang, of one malar in a white female and a Peruvian male skull, and a bilateral division of the temporal squama in a Peruvian.

Prof. Franz Boas presented a paper on The Interpretation of Sun Myths.

Myths referring to the heavenly bodies, and particularly referring to the sun, are found almost all over the world. Many of these are similar to traditions in which the heavenly bodies are not mentioned. The question then arises whether it is justifiable to interpret myths of the latter class as developed from sun myths. If this interpretation is justifiable, we shall conclude that a great many traditions found all over the world are derived from sun myths. A detailed discussion of a series of sun myths, based largely on the distribution of traditions in North America, was taken up, and it was shown that a great many features found in them did not originally belong to these myths. this the conclusion was formed that the incidents of a sun myth cannot, without critical examination, be considered as a primitive interpretation of natural phenomena, but that purely human or animal traits are introduced into sun myths. From this the speaker concluded that myths that do not refer to the sun must not be interpreted as sun myths, unless proof of their historical development can be given.

Meeting adjourned.

LIVINGSTON FARRAND, Recording Secretary.

# February 21, 1900

A public meeting of the American Ethnological Society was held at 226 West 58th street, with Gen. James Grant Wilson in the chair.

On recommendation of the Executive Committee the following new members were elected: James M. Constable, Frederick S. Dellenbaugh,

William E. Dodge, Abram S. Hewitt, Collis P. Huntington, Oswald Ottendorfer, William C. Schermerhorn, William C. Whitney.

General Wilson then addressed the meeting, giving a brief historical sketch of the Society. After stating the considerations which prompted the founding of the Society, the speaker outlined its subsequent career and closed with interesting reminiscences of Albert Gallatin and others of the early members.

Dr Livingston Farrand followed with an illustrated lecture on PRIMITIVE DECORATION. The problems of the evolution of design were stated, and descriptions of the decorative art of certain savage peoples were given and examples shown.

Meeting adjourned.

LIVINGSTON FARRAND, Recording Secretary.

# March 19, 1900

A meeting of the American Ethnological Society was held at the American Museum of Natural History, with Prof. Franz Boas in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

On recommendation of the Executive Committee the following gentlemen were proposed for membership and unanimously elected: A. Jacobi, Berthold Laufer, Henry G. Marquand, Carl Schurz, Henry Villard.

On recommendation of the Executive Committee the following members were unanimously elected Fellows of the Society: Franz Boas, J. McK. Cattell, Livingston Farrand, F. H. Giddings, G. B. Grinnell, S. T. Hagar, A. Hrdlička, A. L. Kroeber, Berthold Laufer, Carl Lumholtz, G. H. Pepper, F. W. Putnam, M. H. Saville, H. I. Smith, J. R. Swanton, A. Woodward.

On motion of Professor Putnam, General Wilson was requested to prepare a suitable memorial on the death of the late President of the Society, Dr West, to be spread upon the minutes. This was done as follows:

DR CHARLES E. WEST, for several years President of the American Ethnological Society, his successor being Morris K. Jesup, Esq., was born in Worthington, Massachusetts, 23 February, 1809, that famous year that gave to the world Lincoln, Gladstone, Tennyson, and many other great heirs of fame. He was graduated from Union College in the class of 1832. From the law and from medicine, for both of which professions he was regularly qualified, Dr West turned his attention to the higher education of women. In 1839 he became Principal of Rutgers Female Institute. He remained at the head of this institution

twelve years, and mapped out a plan of college work for women which was the precursor of the course at Wellesley and Vassar. In 1851 Dr West took charge of the Buffalo Female Seminary, and nine years later became Principal of the Brooklyn Heights Seminary. He continued at the head of this institution until 1889, when advanced age compelled his retirement from active work.

Dr West was elected a Fellow of the Royal Antiquarian Society of Denmark in 1849, and was a member of the American Philological, the New York Historical, and the Long Island Historical Societies, also of the Century Club and other associations. He possessed literary and art collections of high value. His literary treasures include a complete set of Anglo-Saxon works of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, and special collections of the bibliography of art. His collection of etchings and engravings was said to be one of the finest in this country. Dr West also possessed a rich collection of the ancient wares of Japan, gathered by Charles L. Sanderson by permission of the Mikado, and rare specimens of early Grecian, Roman, Egyptian, and Peruvian art, together with a collection of Jewish, Grecian, and Roman coins.

Dr West died of pneumonia, after a brief illness, at his home in Brooklyn, N. Y., 9 March, 1900, in his ninety-second year. Funeral services were held two days later in the Church of the Pilgrims, and the

burial was in Pittsfield, Mass.

J. G. W.

The Executive Committee reported that it had been decided to hold the public meetings of the Society on the second Wednesdays of the months in which the meetings fall, and the technical meetings on the second Mondays so far as this may be possible.

Dr Berthold Laufer then read the paper of the evening on Explora-TIONS AMONG THE AMOOR TRIBES. (Dr Laufer's paper has appeared in full in the *American Anthropologist*, Vol. 2, No. 2, pp. 297–338.)

Meeting adjourned.

LIVINGSTON FARRAND, Recording Secretary.

# April 11, 1900

A public meeting of the American Ethnological Society was held in the library of the American Museum of Natural History, with Gen. James Grant Wilson in the chair.

On recommendation of the Executive Committee the following gentlemen were elected to membership: Edward D. Adams, James H. Benedict, Hermann H. Cammann, R. Fulton Cutting.

On recommendation of the Executive Committee Frederic S. Lee and C. W. Mead were elected Fellows of the Society.

Mr Marshall H. Saville then gave the lecture of the evening upon Explorations in Mitla, Mexico, illustrated with stereopticon views.

Mr Saville's lecture was descriptive of his recent researches and discoveries on behalf of the American Museum of Natural History.

The Recording Secretary offered the following resolution on the death of Frank Hamilton Cushing, of the Bureau of American Ethnology, which was adopted and ordered spread on the minutes:

Resolved: That the American Ethnological Society has learned with profound regret of the death of Frank Hamilton Cushing whose contributions to North American ethnology have been of the highest value and have gained for him the widest recognition.

Meeting adjourned.

LIVINGSTON FARRAND, Recording Secretary.

# April 23, 1900

A meeting of the American Ethnological Society was held in connection with the Section of Anthropology and Psychology of the New York Academy of Sciences at 12 West 31st street.

Dr Livingston Farrand spoke on RECENT RESEARCHES IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA, calling attention to certain points of particular significance in Messrs Spencer and Gillen's book, The Native Tribes of Central Australia, which appeared last year. Special emphasis was laid on the suggested origin of the religious side of totemism as indicated in the 'Intichiuma' ceremonies of the Arunta tribe, which apparently are directed solely toward the end of increasing the supply of the totem animals and plants of the district, each totem group being charged with the treatment of its own totem object and its multiplication for the benefit of the other members of the tribe. The well-known prohibition against killing and eating the totem seems to hold in this region, but tradition and ceremony point to a time when this was not the case. This economic explanation of the custom is the first satisfactory one yet offered and is plausible for the tribes under discussion, even though it may not hold for other parts of the world. The social aspect of totemism with its marriage regulations still remains a problem.

The second paper was presented by Dr Franz Boas on the subject The Eskimos of Cumberland Sound.

The material on which this paper was based was collected by Capt. James Mutch. A full version was given of the myth of the creation of land and sea animals, and a description of the beliefs of the people in regard to souls and in regard to a series of heavens and underground worlds which are the abodes of the deceased. A number of taboos were described, and their explanation as given by the Eskimos was stated. They believe that the transgression of a taboo prescribed after

the death of an animal causes the transgression to become fastened to the soul of the animal, which goes down to the mistress of the lower world, where the transgression makes the hands of the deity sore. This enrages her, and she causes famine and misfortune of all kinds.

Meeting adjourned.

LIVINGSTON FARRAND, Recording Secretary.

# October 22, 1900

A meeting of the American Ethnological Society was held in connection with the Section of Anthropology and Psychology of the New York Academy of Sciences at 12 West 31st street.

The meeting was given up to reports by members of field work undertaken during the summer.

Prof. Franz Boas described his operations on Vancouver island in connection with the Jesup North Pacific Expedition, mentioning particularly discoveries regarding the language and early customs of the Kwakiutl Indians. Dr Livingston Farrand spoke of his work for the Villard Expedition in western Oregon, particularly among the Alsea and the Athapascan tribes of that state and also of researches in Washington for the Jesup Expedition among the Yakima and Quilleute. Dr A. Hrdlička described an expedition to the Apache undertaken for the American Museum of Natural History for the collection of physical measurements and general ethnological information. Prof. F. W. Putnam gave a brief report of observations on the cliff-dwellings of Arizona and also of his investigations concerning the famous Calaveras skull in California. Prof. R. E. Dodge also spoke of researches made by him with regard to the Calaveras skull.

Meeting adjourned.

LIVINGSTON FARRAND, Recording Secretary.

## November 10, 1900

A public lecture was given before the American Ethnological Society and invited guests by Prof. Frederick Starr, of the University of Chicago, on The Indians of Southern Mexico, at 12 West 31st street. Professor Starr gave an interesting popular account of his travels in southern Mexico during recent years, describing the physical charac teristics and customs of the various tribes among which he worked, and illustrated his remarks with stereopticon views made from photographs taken by himself.

LIVINGSTON FARRAND, Recording Secretary.

#### December 10, 1900

A regular meeting of the American Ethnological Society was held at the American Museum of Natural History, with Gen. James Grant Wilson in the chair. The Executive Committee reported on its action since the last regular meeting and its action was confirmed. On recommendation of the Executive Committee Mr Raymond Harrington was elected a member and fellow and Miss Elizabeth M. Hyde a member of the Society.

The paper of the evening was by Prof. Franz Boas upon Explorations on Vancouver Island.

During the summer of 1900 the speaker visited Vancouver island in order to carry on investigations for the Jesup North Pacific Expedition. His work was directed mostly toward a study of the language and industries of the Kwakiutl Indians. He described in some detail the peculiar methods of work in stone and the highly developed methods of woodwork found among these people. The art of the Kwakiutl Indians he described as similar to the art found in northern British Columbia, the geometrical form of ornamentation which is so common to most primitive people being entirely lacking in this era. Inquiries into the social organization of the tribe emphasized the previous discovery of the transitional stage from paternal to maternal institutions and of the recent development of the present clan system. Belief in magic and witchcraft is very widely spread among the tribe, and several specimens used for the purposes of witchcraft were shown.

Meeting adjourned.

LIVINGSTON FARRAND, Recording Secretary.

# OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN ETHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY

#### **OFFICERS**

President, Morris K. Jesup.
First Vice-President, James Grant Wilson.
Second Vice-President, Franz Boas.
Corresponding Secretary, Marshall H. Saville.
Recording Secretary, Livingston Farrand.
Treasurer, Frederick E. Hyde, Jr.
Librarian, Anthony Woodward.

Members of the Executive Committee { James Grant Wilson, Franz Boas, Frederick E. Hyde, Jr.

#### MEMBERS

Ackerman, Warren P. Adams, Edward D. (1) Adler, I. Arnold, Benjamin Avery, S. P. Bell, Bertrand F. (1) Benedict, James H. Bickmore, A. S. Björksten, Theodor Boas, Emil L. Boas, Franz (f)Brickner, S. M. Cammann, H. H. Cattell, J. McK. (f)\*Constable, James M. Cronau, Rudolf (f)Cutting, R. Fulton Da Costa, Benjamin F. De Lancey, Edward F. Dellenbaugh, F. S. Dennis, Warren E. Dodge, William E. Douglas, A. E. Farrand, Livingston (f)Gardiner, Asa Bird Gardiner, George N. Giddings, Franklin H. (f)Grinnell, George Bird (f)Hagar, Stansbury (f)Harrington, Raymond (f)Hathaway, Frank R. Hepner, Mrs. C. E. Hewitt, Abram S. Hirsch, William Hrdlička, Aleš (f)Huntington, Archer M. (1) \*Huntington, Collis P. (p) Huntington, George S. Hyde, B. T. B. Hyde, Clarence M.

f = Fellow; l = Life Member; p = Patron; h = Honorary Member. Hyde, Miss Elizabeth M. Hyde, Frederick E., Jr (1) Jacobi, Abraham Jesup, Morris K. Kahnweiler, W. S. Kroeber, A. L. (f) Kunz, George F. Lauderdale, J. V. Laufer, Berthold (f) Lee, Frederic S. (f)Loubat, Duc de Low, Seth Lumholtz, Carl (f) Marquand, Henry G. McCurdy, George G. (f)McWhood, L. B. Mead, C. W. (f)Moreau, Charles C. Navarro, Juan N. Osborn, Henry F. \*Ottendorfer, Oswald (1) Pepper, George H. (f)Prince, J. Dyneley Prudden, T. Mitchell Putnam, Frederick W. (f) Reigart, J. F. Saville, Marshall H. (f)Schermerhorn, William C. (1) Schurz, Carl Smith, Harlan I. (f)Swanton, J. R. (f)Thompson, William H. \*Villard, Henry Weber, Rudolf (f)\*West, Charles E. Whitney, William C. Wilson, James Grant Woodward, Anthony (f)Woodworth, Robert S.

<sup>\*</sup> Deceased.